

are leading the way among public agencies by being the first in the nation to voluntarily sign off on the annual accounts according to the terms of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

If the corporate world is to regain public confidence, it might do the unthinkable and follow the lead of public agencies that good governance can enhance rather than hinder performance.

TRIBUTE TO BONJWING

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to recognize my staff member Bonjwing Lee on this 15th day of July, 2003.

It is with both regret and heartfelt joy that my staff and I see Bonjwing leave my office today. I as well as many of my staff member have had the blessing of knowing Bonjwing nearly the entire 7 years of my tenure thus far in the Senate. Hailing from Kansas City, MO, he first came to service in my office as a bright young college student at Northwestern University and in the subsequent years has become a friend and family member to the Brownback crew and me.

For the past year and a half, Bonjwing has worked with me as a legislative aide. Professionally, the "Jwinger," as he is affectionately called by his colleagues, has demonstrated diligence, dedication, kindness, and humility in his work, and his outstanding service has been deeply appreciated. Beyond the office, I am honored to call Bonjwing a personal friend. Through talks we have shared and interactions, I have come to know Bonjwing as a remarkable young man with unique perspectives. I have learned a great deal from his cultural heritage, his religious faith, active endeavors, talents, and amazing experiences, and for this I thank him.

Although I lose a valued staff member today and will miss his presence and company, I heartily congratulate Bonjwing Lee on his many successes and prayerfully wish him well as he heads off to take on the rigors of legal study at the University of Michigan School of Law this fall and to an exciting future beyond. As he has taught me that the Chinese never say goodbye, instead parting company with a promise, "we shall meet again," I remain optimistic that our paths will cross again and look forward to my next meeting with Bonjwing.

I wish to leave Bonjwing with a verse from the Book of Philippians, IV: 9

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

HOSPICE AND HOME CARE IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to tell you of two of my constituents from Merced, CA. I recently

met with both of them and learned how the availability of home hospice and home health care in their homes improved their lives.

I had the opportunity to visit Carmel Flinders, a 93-year-old retired teacher with an engaging personality and a voracious appetite for reading books who lives at her home in Merced. On Christmas Eve, she was preparing for a large family gathering and unfortunately broke her hip and had to be rushed to Sacramento for surgery. Thanks to home health care paid for by Medicare, Carmel was able to return home and resume her life, supported by home health care workers and family members. She had the help of Rigo Mayoral, a caring physical therapist, who works for California Home Care and Hospice. She also benefitted from the assistance of Kim Holmes, a gifted nurse recently named Home Health Nurse of the year. It was inspiring to meet Carmel Flinders and the health care workers who have contributed to her strong recovery.

Americo Martignoni, and his wife, Eleanor, lived in the lovely home that they built more than 40 years ago. Americo was a retired farmer and veteran who was able to live at home with hospice care for the last 11 months. He was visited every week by Kerry Cheek, a licensed vocational nurse, and also assisted by Kaye Moyer, a certified home health aide. A lung cancer patient, with an indomitable spirit, Americo loved Eleanor's polenta and her legendary biscotti. These special people have a wonderful and supportive family of which they are so proud. Home hospice care, paid through Medicare, improved their lives while saving dollars. Mr. Martignoni died on July 7th at his home. He was a remarkable man and I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Eleanor and his family.

Medicare will soon celebrate its 38th birthday. It is gratifying to see this program at work, making a difference in the lives of my constituents. I saw the importance of this program through the eyes of two remarkable Americans, Carmel Flinders and Americo Martignoni. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

FREE TRADE AND WORKER PROTECTIONS

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the Senate will soon consider implementing legislation for the Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreements. These FTAs are comprehensive in nature and will serve well the interests of the United States and these two very important trading partners.

However, I am increasingly concerned with the notion that the Chile and Singapore FTAs should serve as

models or templates for future trade negotiations. I feel strongly that future negotiations must reflect the particular concerns and uniqueness of each trading partner. This seems obvious, but those who follow trade negotiations have warned that the Bush administration may claim that the standards of the Chile and Singapore agreements are universally applicable. I hope those warnings are wrong because provisions that are acceptable given the circumstances in Chile and Singapore may not be acceptable in agreements with countries in very different situations.

International trade enhances economic opportunity and can serve to improve workers' rights. As such, future trade agreements must build upon the progress made to date by including comprehensive worker protections and strong enforcement provisions.

Over the past decade, the treatment of labor and environmental issues in trade agreements has evolved both in emphasis and enforcement. NAFTA represents an early stage in this evolution, addressing labor and environmental issues in the context of the agreement, albeit in side accords. The United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement was the first FTA to include labor provisions in the actual text of the agreement and to subject those provisions to the same dispute settlement procedure as all other elements of the agreement.

Although the Chile and Singapore agreements should be the next step forward in this evolution towards strong and effectively enforced labor and environmental standards, they are in fact a step back. Unlike the United States-Jordan FTA, the only labor provision subject to dispute settlement is the requirement that each trading partner enforce its existing labor laws. Furthermore, there is no enforcement mechanism to ensure that Chile and Singapore will strive to uphold basic international labor rights.

As we pursue future trade agreements, we must encourage policies that avoid a downward spiral in working or environmental conditions. Trade agreements must be a catalyst to improve these standards. To achieve this end, American trade policy must be flexible: we must maintain a broad adherence to basic principles and at the same time address the unique characteristics of each trading partner.

Maintaining this flexibility is of utmost importance in our ongoing trade negotiations with six Central American countries. These countries provide an entirely different set of political and economic conditions than Chile, Singapore, and our other FTA partners. The administration must not ignore the fact that critical differences exist between the CAFTA countries and Chile and Singapore in labor and environmental areas. A fully enforceable obligation to adopt and enforce basic labor standards will improve the broader socioeconomic dynamics in Central